

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1902.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

PART I.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER,
AND
APPENDIXES.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1903.

Drought.—No rain has fallen this year. Many of the Indians could not plant at all, owing to the hardness and dryness of the ground. Suffering is bound to come unless means can be provided to give them work. Recommendations have just been laid before your office which will at least relieve them to some extent.

Allow me to thank you for many courtesies.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES E. BURTON,

Superintendent and Acting United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF TEACHER OF POLACCA DAY SCHOOL.

POLACCA, ARIZ., June 30, 1902.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to submit the report of this school.

Polacca Day School is situated about 90 miles northwest of Holbrook, which is on the Santa Fe system, and 15 miles from Hopi Training School. It is shadowed on the west by the First Mesa, which is about 500 feet high. On this mesa are the three pueblos, Walpi, Sichumovi, and Tawa. The people of the first two villages are Hopi, while those of the latter village are of a New Mexico pueblo stock, their forefathers coming here about 200 years ago as borrowed fighters to assist the Hopi in their battles with the Navaho, Apache, and other warlike neighbors. The people of the Tawa village speak their own language, which is not much understood by the Hopi.

I took charge of this school March 4, 1902. I found 38 children enrolled. We have had but four months of actual school work; however, the progress in the schoolroom has been very satisfactory. During the month of May we enrolled nine beginning pupils, a majority of them coming to us clothed in sunshine only. There is not an able-bodied child of school age on the mesa but who has been enrolled and in regular attendance at some school. All the larger boys and girls attend your training school, as they should, but it allows no large children to assist in the industrial work of the school, and consequently the work falls very heavily upon the housekeeper.

The two full-blood Indians sent by you to fill the positions of Indian assistants were both faithful and earnest in their work. Too much can not be said in their praise, especially of Viola. Their positions have been discontinued and instead the position of cook and laundress has been allowed, at \$30 per month. In our estimation more satisfactory work can be done with the two Indian assistants in preparing the noon-day meal (not lunch), sewing and mending clothing, etc., and besides it is absolutely necessary to have male help at the washing machines. Then the hire of the two Indian assistants costs the Government \$10 less per month than the cook and laundress, and again it is very doubtful if a white person can be found who will come here for the low salary of \$30 per month where traveling and living expenses are so very high.

From our experience in getting the new children into school we believe that the school would progress just as well without the so-called three school chiefs (one from each pueblo). Once each month we invited them down to visit the school and to take dinner with the children, and by or before they had finished their meal they would inquire how many sleeps before they might come and eat again.

We never worked among Indian children who were more willing to sing or speak when spoken to than the little Hopi, but the older Indians are not nearly so pliable as are the Skallam (Clallam) or the Havasupai. However, every male Indian on this mesa submitted quite willingly to having his hair cut off at your request or direction; although it did seem (as they said, Oki-wi) too bad for the old gray-haired grandfathers to have to submit to having their hair cut short, and especially so when it is remembered that their long hair is and has been from time immemorial a part of their very being and religion.

It does make me—yes, I'll use the term—"hot" to have squaw men, editors, and other so-called Indian sympathizers make such a howl about the hair cutting. They do not know anything about it, but if they had gone as an employee to an Indian school to some of the wily plains tribes and remained five or more years, then I dare say that everyone of them would say with us that "had every male Indian below the old grandfather been required to cut and to keep his hair short for the last five years, then the civilizing of the Indian would at least have been ten years further along than it is to-day."

The Hopi are a heritage to our country as the fruits of war and by purchase, and are full citizens of the United States, but are also wards of their rich uncle, inasmuch as they receive wagons, stoves, wire, etc. Then there is surely nothing wrong in the Indian Office directing that the Indians' hair should be cut, which will aid greatly in their civilization and give them much more comfort while at their work, especially in the field. I believe that you have every reason to be highly complimented by the success with which you met in having every male Indian cut his hair.

First of all things, this people need water developed for them, of which there seems to be a good supply under their fields, and the indication for artesian water is good. If strong flows of the latter should be developed their now desert fields would soon be turned to living green.

The two stores owned and operated by Indian young men are still flourishing, both together having sold on an average of 6 wagon loads of goods each month of our stay here.

It is very probable that during the fiscal year a good vein of coal will be opened up not far distant from the school.

The children were enrolled and reported by a given name, only, on our coming here. It was several weeks before we learned who were brothers and sisters. We gave the father's name for a surname and so reported them the last fiscal quarter. We believe if this system of naming is carried out that family relationship may be more easily followed up.

This school is in need of an organ, a few single desks, and stools, also a coal house. As for other buildings we are very well supplied.

I wish to thank you for your kindly aid, counsel and advice, and generous support, not because it is a customary or a type set expression, but because I feel it from the very bottom of my soul.

I am, very respectfully,

JESSE H. BRATLEY, *Teacher.*

Mr. CHARLES E. BURTON,

Superintendent and Acting United States Indian Agent.

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